

## Events

### **Breakfast**

March 13<sup>th</sup> 2009  
7:30am Check -In  
Central Arizona College

Next Breakfast Meeting  
Friday April 10, 2009  
The Property Casa Grande

More Details to come!

### **Contacts**

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Welcome to Pinal Partnership's first Newsletter edition! We hope you will find valuable information below!

### **President's Message**

Despite the financial markets and the fact that we are all a bit more somber lately, Pinal Partnership has a very productive 2008! Our memberships have increased and the attendance at breakfasts has reached a record high with 200 at the Comp Plan breakfast program in August 2008. We have luckily had most of our major sponsors renew and are so very appreciative of this! In addition, we have had several Cities and Towns that have not participated in the past become active at breakfasts and on various committees. We love that we have a good mix of Municipal and private interests – it makes for a much more important and interesting dialogue.

When we formed Pinal Partnership in 2005, we vowed that this group would be not just be a "get together/networking" group (although we recognize the importance of this function and are happy to provide such a tremendous and diverse group of people to hang out with each month), but one that focuses on issues and makes the County a better place to live, work and play! This month, after extensive discussions with Pinal County and hiring a traffic engineer to help better understand the issues, the County Board of Supervisors has adopted a revised and acceptable Roadways of Regional Significance and Mobility Study (RSRM). This is very important in that the decisions that is made regarding transportation now, and in this case specifically in relation to access management, will really affect future lifestyles and growth in the County. We were happy to work closely with Pinal Public Works and County Management to reach a very good solution.

In addition, our subcommittee on the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance has worked the Comprehensive Plan which will be out for additional public review later this month.

We also have some great staffing additions. Heather Hedelius, who used to be my assistant at Rose Law Group pc, has gone full time with Pinal Partnership working to provide support to Tom Smith as the Director of Operations and Events. From very personal experience I can say that Heather is the best and we are lucky to have her at Pinal Partnership!

Please contact me directly to let me know what we can be doing better. If you have a good idea or see an issue that we should be aware of, please call it to my attention. We are committed to improving each month and need your help and participation to do this. The next couple months we have some spectacular programs – be sure not to miss them – Supervisor Smith Roast/new Supervisor introduction in November and the always anticipated and well attended Elliott Pollock & Co. Market report and predictions in December. ... See you then!

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### **The Executive Director's Message**

"The Years went by so Fast...."

"And this is just the beginning---". Created by ten (10) dedicated, professional individuals, focused on the development of Pinal County, they said "let's eat breakfast together on September 9, 2005" and Pinal Partnership was born.

This Newsletter is just the beginning of a new era for Pinal Partnership. Look for exciting changes in our web site, membership systems, committee strategies, a customer survey and an Annual Report. Your support is appreciated as we build this future together.

It's the "Holiday Season". I know times are economically tough but we all have areas of

thanksgiving. My holiday gift to you is from Dr. Robert Shuller's "Pearls of Power for Possibility Thinkers": Never underestimate the value of an idea - every positive idea has within it the potential for success.

There is no success without service and service means involvement in someone else's wants, needs, hurts and desires. The people who really succeed are the people who give extra effort and push themselves beyond their normal limits.

\*An ode to sweet and satisfying success:

- Possibilities (ideas) must be weighed
- Priorities must be swayed
- Plans must be laid
- Commitment must be made
- Timing might be delayed
- The course must be stayed
- And the trumpet will be played

Have a great holiday season and may 2009 be your best year ever.

Tom Smith  
Executive Director

### **Parks, Trails, Open Space and Public Lands Committee**

Last year the committee prepared a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Treasures of Pinal County" which documents in pictures and narrative 8 important open space and environmental resources in the County. This presentation is available to schools and organizations.

This year we have an aggressive schedule including: Collection of data from cities and towns to create a county-wide resource and clearing house for open space plans and policies.

Prepare a brochure promoting the Treasures of Pinal presentation. Utilize the new Partnership web site to inform and promote committee activities.

Investigate options for conducting a survey to determine potential future funding methods for major open space. Evolve, over time, a long-term strategy for open space acquisition

and encourage implementation. Please join us on the last Tuesday of most months, at 10 am. Locations vary. To get on the email list, send your contact info to Steve Kellogg at [skellogg@cvlci.com](mailto:skellogg@cvlci.com)

### **Government Relations Committee**

Hello Pinal Partnership Members,  
In the early stages of forming the Pinal Partnership Government Relations Committee (PPGRC) the committee worked diligently to consider its role and adopted the following Mission Statement:

Pinal Partnership was created to improve research, planning and coordination of private and public efforts related to infrastructure, natural resources and community development in Pinal County.

The Pinal Partnership Government Relations Committee will strive to improve communication between the communities while fostering education and a common, growth-oriented focus throughout Pinal County and its neighboring counties.

The PPGRC meets monthly (excluding July) on the third Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at SRP's headquarters in Tempe. The PPGRC reviews current issues and works to consider how the committee, as well as Pinal Partnership as a whole, might productively contribute.

We encourage your participation.  
Committee Chair --- Janeen Rohovit

### **Economic Development Committee**

An Economic Development Perspective  
Evelyn Casuga, Chair, Pinal Partnership  
Economic Development Committee  
APS General Manager, Community  
Development and Rural AZ Customer Service

The need to accelerate economic development efforts in Pinal County is more compelling than ever. Economic diversity is crucial for the long term economic stability of the region. Simply stated, employment opportunities across different industry sectors are vital to weather the inevitable ebb and

flow of business cycles. It is common wisdom that when citizens of the area are gainfully employed in jobs within the region that pay head-of-household wages, the overall economic benefits accrue to all.

Although the current downturn may appear disheartening, it's a call to action for those in the business of economic development and to those of us who support those efforts. Through the mission statement of the Economic Development Committee which states:

To advocate for a sustainable Pinal County economy through the preservation and creation of employment centers, to Support organized economic development efforts throughout the region, and to encourage conditions that foster Economic growth,

We can proactively work with the regional economic development entities to position Pinal County as a viable economic engine within the Sun Corridor.

Committee work has included learning about the many facets of economic development covering topics such as business attraction, retention and expansion, workforce development and education, community development, economic development software tools, planning, infrastructure, legislation, and linkages with statewide and regional economic development entities.

As we look ahead and as the region prepares for the future beyond the current economic pain, the Committee supports an inclusive and wide-ranging approach to economic development in collaboration with public, private, and non-profit sectors. The following are a few areas of focus where the Committee has and can participate: 1) formal planning activities including the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan and the various Cities and Towns General Plan updates which all clearly articulate the need for employment centers; 2) infrastructure strategies that consider

immediate and long term needs to support existing and emerging industries; 3) higher education to prepare students and residents for the jobs of the future; and 4) legislative advocacy in conjunction with statewide economic development groups to support economic development in Arizona.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact me at [Evelyn.Casuga@aps.com](mailto:Evelyn.Casuga@aps.com), (520) 421-8340.

### **Transportation Committee**

Over the last year, this committee has met on an irregular, yet as-needed basis to address regional surface route issues which have been in the public forum central to Pinal County. The primary topics have related to the *Interstate 8 & 10 - Hidden Valley Roadway Framework Study (HVFS)* conducted by Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and bqAZ, and Pinal County Public Works Department's transportation study called *Regionally Significant Routes for Safety and Mobility Access Management (RSRSM)*. The bright future to Pinal County is obvious to all, but only subject to sound connectivity via transportation corridors and networks not in place today. The existing roadway network is already suffering with bottlenecks only to worsen as growth returns and these two plan (or studies) sought to address the problems, but not without controversy with some property owners and the development community.

To "fast-forward", the HVFS study and plan is still underway but nearing public comment by MAG. Very recent and exciting news relates to Pinal County's RSRSM study. This study received significant attention over the last 15 months, and especially in the last couple of weeks as Pinal Partnership and County representatives worked together on key outstanding differences. Ultimately the interests came together and with support of Pinal Partnership and staff, the study went before the Board of Supervisors on Oct 23rd and was adopted unanimously.

The Transportation Committee was addressed by MAG representative, Bob Hazlett, P.E. on three occasions and given updates on the progress and goals of the HVFS. The study area encompasses much of central and northwest Pinal County. It is an extension of the Hassayampa Framework Study previously adopted in the Buckeye and Goodyear areas and extends south and east through Gila Bend, Maricopa Stanfield and Casa Grande to the junction of I-8 and I-10. This study looks into the future to project development demands and major regional transportation needs. Although general in nature, it considers various goals and alignments for future high volume and capacity roadways (freeways and parkways) through this high growth potential area. The parkways, often referred to as Arizona Parkways, were a part of the Hassayampa Study and have gotten considerable attention for application in Pinal County, even being referenced in Pinal County's RSRSM study. We look forward to having Bob continue to update our committee as the HVFS nears adoption, as it will certainly be a guiding instrument not just for the study area, but for statewide transportation connectivity and planning.

Pinal County's RSRSM study has gotten significant attention from the Transportation Committee for more than a year. Although there were several issues discussed, most anxiety was created over the issue of access control which relates to how connections may or may not be made to major roadways (termed "regionally significant routes" by the County). At odds were the County's interest in maximizing traffic movement and accident potential, versus concerns by stakeholders and property owners that limitations on access were overly onerous thereby discouraging some development types and potentially reducing property values. The debate was not so much about the concept of access control, but rather the frequency of its application onto "regionally significant routes". County staff discussed the concerns with the Transportation Committee at multiple

meetings and participated in two technical review meetings with the Pinal Partnership (PP) representatives and stakeholders. PP retained the services of a traffic consultant (CivTech) to review RSRSM traffic analysis which was done over the summer. The analysis got to the heart of the capacity issue, and subsequent dialogue generated several amendments to the RSRSM study which made the stakeholder group much more comfortable with the document. Main points included;

- Full movement access has been reduced to 1/8 mile points, and right-in/right-out access now at 330'. Left-in can also be considered at 330' subject to TIA and County review.
- Arizona Parkways consistent with other AZ agencies are now incorporated into the plan at roughly 4 to 6 mile spacing per the RSRSM graphic. The section being developed will also include an interim condition to provide practical functionality prior to traffic demands requiring the full parkway section.
- Signalized intersections will now be allowed at ¼ mile locations.
- The regionally significant roads are generally on 2 mile separations. Now, all intermediate mile roadways and not shown on the RSRSM graphic are considered minor arterial roadways and not subject to the RSRSM guidelines for access control.
- Parcels with limited (less than 330') will have access without having to secure cross-access easements from adjacent properties, but shall be considered on a case by case basis. Temporary/interim access points and obligations for future closure have been removed.
- Arterial (not Parkway) r-o-w widths are to be 130' to 150'

As stated above, ultimately, the topic of RSRS Access Management was placed on agenda for consideration by the Board of Supervisors and was heard on October 23<sup>rd</sup> with Pinal Partnership and some stakeholders in attendance. The Study was adopted unanimously by the Supervisors, with thanks given by Pinal Partnership Chairperson, Jordan Rose, to staff and to the BOS for their patience over the last year of debate about the document with PP/TC. The Board also expressed thanks to Pinal Partnership for the involvement and participation in the process.

#### Future TC Issues -

The Transportation Committee shall continue to be a “clearinghouse” of information relating to regional transportation corridors in the County, and to provide a forum for debate and discussion on issues relating to future growth and economic development of Pinal County and the role transportation will play. The Committee is also always receptive to requests for topics to be addressed by committee members, or to requests by entities wishing to address the Committee.

A significant topic to be addressed in upcoming meetings will be **aviation**. As all members are interested in economic development opportunities around the County, aviation enters the dialogue. The committee is currently requesting the participation of several cities with aviation interests, and Pinal County to come together and join us to address the different interests of each agency, and to discuss the potential (and interest level) of regional aviation facilities. Many of you are familiar with the County’s Comprehensive Plan update currently underway. This plan includes large land set asides for aviation potential which also relates to future freeway alignments. The TC will look forward to updates and learning of goals of the various agencies in the same TC forum if possible.

Pinal County’s future is so bright, it’s easy to get excited about the possibilities. Although

economic times are challenging, there is no lack of enthusiasm for what the future holds in, and for, Pinal County.

Darrell Wilson Transportation Chair

#### **Health and Human Services Committee**

Healthcare development is one of the most complex yet essential components to community development. The multidisciplinary team including developer, community leadership, private investment, and philanthropy all converge for the healthcare benefit of a community. In many instances the long-term survival of community is defined by the ability to support and foster healthcare development. For these reasons the Pinal Partnership serves as the ideal vehicle to unite healthcare development efforts in Pinal County.

The MISSION of the Pinal Partnership Health and Human Services Committee is to plan, promote, and provide quality accessible healthcare and wellness for all Pinal County residents.

Our goals are to (1) organize a committee that represents the diverse interests necessary to successfully plan and develop Health and Medical services in Pinal County. (2) To identify healthcare needs for Pinal County and to (3) facilitate relationships that expedite health and medical development in Pinal County.

In less than two years our committee has made substantial investment of time and resources to facilitate a process of shared leadership by all stakeholders in bringing healthcare facilities to Pinal County. This process has been inclusive of all interests and has been seen as a new approach of historical debilitating activities of competing interest. In this new approach we have worked collaboratively with all healthcare community stakeholders by sharing a common vision to bring healthcare partners to Pinal County.

This collaborative approach has legitimized the authority of our committee and its efforts have shown area providers that Pinal County is now prepared to be an attractive partner.

Peter Villaverde  
Chairman

\* Next issue: Florence Hospital at Anthem

### **Education Committee**

Next meeting will be on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> directly after the breakfast meeting. Hope you will join us! For more information about this committee, please contact Alma Farrell at afarrell61@onmbb.com

### **Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Sub-Committee**

The PCCPS is working diligently with the County Staff on the Pinal Comp Plan. We have held a few meetings and made comments with County Staff and their consultants and are now in the process of reviewing the redraft that was presented to the public a few weeks ago. We plan to make formal comment on this and invite everyone's participation in this important committee. If you are interested in participating contact Miranda at [Mculver@roselawgroup.com](mailto:Mculver@roselawgroup.com) for meeting time/date.

### **News!**

Pinal Partnership supported 2 bonds – the CAC and the Maricopa Park Bond. Both of these bonds were passed in the recent election! What wonderful things happening in future of Pinal County! Thank you to all of those who supported these two bonds.

